

March 13, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, first of all I know that there's been considerable debate so if this motion to kill is defeated I would, by rights, have a right to close on the motion to advance. I think most of what I'm saying, that I would have to say, is being said at this time. Senator DeCamp did the very thing he accused me of. He said when you have no argument you attack the person. It's easy to attack me in this body. It's easy to attack me anywhere because I'm not a popular individual. Whenever a statement is made such as Senator DeCamp makes secretly or openly people naturally tend to agree with it. To get to the issues that he raised. He said that the Missouri Plan ensures competent judges and when a lawyer goes before these judges he knows the judge is competent. He forgets the numerous times he is in the Judiciary Committee, on the record, talked about the incompetency of county court judges, the problems of some of them not knowing the law, not understanding and so forth. When he said that I had called lawyers all these terrible things throughout history, I only exist at this point. I had to go back into history, through reading which I do and I think I do it as well as anybody - better than some and more than most. I quoted from writers who are considered reputable individuals and writers become popular because their works tend to appeal to a wide range of people. Apparently the things they said about lawyers corresponded with the knowledge people had who had contact with them. I quoted lawyers from Europe . . . I mean writers from Europe, from America, and from ancient Rome to show that there is one thing that they all agree on and that is the general characteristic of practicing lawyers. While he was taking issue with various things I said in the statement that he read from, he didn't deal with the primary point of the article which is Judge Koontz finding as a matter of law that lawyers need not be truthful in the State of Nebraska. He still belongs to the Bar Association and a violation of the Canons in Nebraska is to engage in any conduct that brings disrepute on the legal profession. When judge finds, as a matter of law, that a lawyer need not be truthful that seems to me to bring the profession into disrepute. I know the bar and nobody else will recommend that action be taken against Judge Koontz for that. When he said, Senator DeCamp said, that I called all lawyers liars. I have not called all lawyers liars. Sometimes the Perry Mason syndrome occurs in real life. The guilty party will jump up and speak. The guilty party, without being accused, will jump up and speak. I didn't call Senator DeCamp a liar. I didn't mention his name or that of any other senator in that statement. Maybe he took offense because he knows some things that I'm not aware of in the way he conducts himself as an attorney. When he asked who brought Watergate to the front, he said lawyers. That is untrue. There are two attorneys . . . I mean two newspaper men on the Washington Post who broke the Watergate story, so attorneys did not do that. When they want to talk about handling the cases in secret of complaints against attorneys, if a private citizen has a charge brought . . . now this is before a preliminary